Docket No. F-8958   Ser. No. 10/573,214

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the indicated paragraphs of the substitute specification in accordance with the amendments indicated below.

Page 7, third full paragraph:

FIG. 1 is a partially fracture plan view of an absorbent article 1A according to a first embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 2 is a fragmentary view taken along line II-II of Fig. [[2]] 1 .

Pages 8 and 9, paragraph bridging same:

As the absorbent body 4, a material which [[can]] absorbs and keeps body fluid may be used, and normally a material which is obtained by mixing absorbent polymer powder in fluff pulp is used preferably in view of the absorbent function and the price. The pulp is made of cellulose fiber such as chemical pulp obtained by timer or molten pulp, or artificial cellulose fiber such as rayon or acetate, and softwood pulp whose fiber length is longer than hardwood pulp is used preferably from the viewpoint of the function and the price. The absorbent body 4 is preferably surrounded by the crepe paper 5 in order to maintain the shape, quickly diffuse menstrual blood or the like and prevent reverse flow of the menstrual blood

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which is once absorbed. Further, as shown in the drawing, the plane shape of the absorbent body 4 may have an oval shape or a fit-cut shape (lageniform shape) in order to relieve butting against a groin portion.

Pages 10 and 11, paragraph bridging same:

Both side portions which sandwich a body fluid discharge area K are embossed from the upper surface of the liquid permeable front sheet 3 in the area of the middle-height portion 6, so that a pair of right and left concave leakage preventing grooves 8, 8 which extend to the longitudinal direction of the product are formed. As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the liquid permeable front sheet 3 and the crepe paper 5 are fused by the [[emboss]] embossment, so that the leakage preventing grooves 8 are formed so as to be deeper than a thickness h1 of the middle-height portion 6 and covers the standard portion absorbent body 4A. A depth H of the leakage preventing groove 8 is 0.5 to 9.0 mm, preferably 2.0 to 6.0 mm. When the depth H is less than 0.5 mm, the effect for blocking body fluid is small, and thus the sideways leakage cannot be effectively prevented. When the depth H exceeds 9.0 mm, the thickness of the absorbent body should be increased, and thus convenience of the thin absorbent article is lost. Further, a ratio (H/T) of the depth H of the leakage preventing groove 8 to the thickness T of the standard

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portion absorbent body 4A is 0.06 to 3.3, preferably 0.2 to 0.8. On the other hand, a bottom width B of the leakage preventing groove 8 may be 0.5 to 5.0 mm.

Pages 12 and 13, paragraph bridging same:

The absorbent article 1B is compared with the absorbent article 1A according to the first embodiment, and only a difference is explained. In the absorbent article 1B, as shown in FIG. 5, the width W2 of the middle-height portion 6 is wider than the width W1 (see FIG. 1) of the middle-height portion of the absorbent article 1A, the both sides which sandwich the body fluid discharge portion K are embossed from the upper surface of the liquid permeable front sheet 3 so that a pair of right and left concave leakage preventing grooves 8, 8 are formed in the area of the middle-height portion 6, and the middle-height portion 6 is thinned by [[press]] pressing so that the thinned portion 10 is formed on the outsides of the leakage preventing grooves 8.

Page 13, second full paragraph:

The thinned portion 10 is not thinned by [[press]] pressing from the upper side of the liquid permeable front sheet 3, but it is desirable that the single absorbent body is pressed and the thinned portion by means of the [[press]] pressing is not noticeable from the outside of the product.

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